

RECRUITMENT FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE RADIATION ACCIDENT
REGISTRY BY INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED IN RADIATION ACCIDENTS
AT FACILITIES OF NRC LICENSEES

An untoward event involving ionizing radiation in which any individual received significant radiation exposure is classified as an accident for the purposes of the Radiation Accident Registry. "Significant" exposure is defined as a level of exposure at which clinical symptoms would be expected. Every radiation accident is automatically entered into the registry as soon as knowledge of the event becomes known; and, for each accident, every individual who received any radiation exposure due to the accident is also automatically enrolled in the Registry.

The information in the Registry for each exposed individual should include the following data: Estimates of dose, by type of radiation, for each part of the body exposed and details of the dose calculations; a complete history to the time of the accident; copies of all hospital, laboratory, and physicians' records covering the period of observation and treatment for signs and symptoms directly related to the accident; and copies of records of all physical examinations and hospitalizations, including pathology reports and slides of tissue specimens, subsequent to those directly related to the accident.

The exposure information will generally become available to the Registry from the accident investigation reports. However, the rest of the information can only be obtained with the consent of the patient and will often require a release signed by the patient. An individual who has been involved in a radiation accident will usually be approached about participating in the Radiation Registry at the time ^{when} of the NRC investigation of the accident. ~~is completed~~

The recruiter should briefly explain to the exposed individual the REPOSITORY DOE - FORRESTAL

COLLECTION Markey Files

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purpose of the Registry and define for him the extent of involvement the individual would have with the Registry if he agrees to participate. At a minimum, a release should be obtained to provide the findings of the investigative team to the Registry. ~~Hopefully,~~ ^{NRC or other} necessary releases ^{med to} ~~would also~~ be signed to permit the Registry to obtain copies of the hospital and medical records as well as employment records.

PURPOSE OF THE REGISTRY

A primary purpose of the Radiation Accident Registry is to compile complete clinical histories of radiation accident victims to be used in the training of physicians to treat individuals exposed to radiation in the future, or to provide medical care for patients with a history or radiation exposure. Fortunately, the number of individuals who have received significant levels of radiation exposure due to accidents is small. However, the very rarity of these individuals makes it extremely important to have as much information as possible about the clinical course of each exposed individual so that the totality of experience will be available for the use of physicians treating exposed persons. The information in the Registry is available for the use of qualified physicians and scientists, but the anonymity of the individuals enrolled in the Registry ^{is} ~~will be~~ maintained.

EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT BY INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN THE REGISTRY

Each individual in the Registry ^{is to} ~~will~~ be contacted annually by a member of the staff of the Registry. At that time, the registrant will be asked about his health during the past year. If he has had any illnesses, or physical examinations, he will be requested to have the medical records forwarded. ~~us.~~ Any expense involved in obtaining these records will be borne by the Registry. At the time of the first contact by the Registry, a time of day,

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of week, and of year for making these annual contacts will be established for the convenience of the Registrant.

A Registrant might, at some time, be invited to come to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for a complete physical examination, when having the results of the examination would benefit the training and research mission of the Registry. If a Registrant accepts the invitation, travel and living expenses for the exposed individual and a traveling companion will be paid by the Registry; and, of course, there will be no charge for the examination. The findings of this examination will be made available to the private physician of the examinee at the request of the examinee.

BENEFITS TO THE ENROLLED INDIVIDUALS

The medical expertise in the care of individuals exposed to radiation which physicians associated with the Radiation Accident Registry have developed is freely available to a private physician of a Registrant. The physicians associated with the Registry are also always available to talk with a Registrant about concerns he might have about his exposure, to help a Registrant find a private physician, and to provide copies of the individual's medical history to a Registrant's new physician if this is requested.

E. Tompkins
September 9, 1976

*This avoids the Registry having
physician responsibility
for any registrants.*

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